

September 30, 2017

## Dear Investor:

The Sound Shore Fund Investor (SSHFX) and Institutional (SSHVX) classes posted solid gains of 2.99% and 3.02%, respectively, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2017. These results roughly matched the Russell 1000 Value Index (Russell Value), which rose 3.11% and trailed the Standard & Poor's 500 Index (S&P 500) which was up 4.48%. Year-to-date returns for SSHFX of 11.46% and for SSHVX 11.59% were ahead of the Russell Value's 7.92%, but behind the S&P 500's 14.24%.

We are required by the SEC to say that: Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The Fund's Investor Class 1, 5, and 10-year average annual total returns for the period ended September 30, 2017 were 16.96%, 14.87%, and 6.53%, respectively. The Fund's Institutional Class 1, 5, and 10-year average annual total returns for the period ended September 30, 2017 were 17.16%, 15.08%, and 6.72%, respectively. Fund returns assume the reinvestment of all dividend and capital gain distributions. The total annual operating expense ratio (gross) is 0.91% for the Investor Class and 0.82% for the Institutional Class. The net expense ratio for the Institutional Class is 0.75% pursuant to an expense limitation agreement between the Adviser and the Fund. This agreement is in effect until at least May 1, 2018. The performance for the Institutional Class prior to its inception on 12/9/13 is based on the performance of the Investor Class, adjusted to reflect the lower expense ratio of the Institutional Class (net of expense reimbursements). For the most recent month-end performance, please visit the Fund's website at www.soundshorefund.com.

The third quarter of 2017 witnessed another strong period for major stock indices, extending year-to-date gains. While hurricanes, legislative logjams, and geopolitical tensions grabbed the headlines, advancing shares were more attuned to impressive Standard & Poor's 500 Index revenue and earnings growth of 7% and 20% year over year, respectively, for the June reporting period. Based on our conversations with companies, solid economic trends were evident in most regions of the globe.

Sound Shore's time-tested investment process, applied consistently for 39 years, starts with looking at stocks with low valuations based upon earnings and cash flow versus historic norms. From there, our fundamental research pinpoints company-specific drivers which we believe will surface value over our multi-year investment time horizon. Importantly, we also cross-check our valuation assessments with private market, leveraged buyout (LBO), and sum-of-the-parts analyses. These additional perspectives are especially helpful when reviewing companies with restructuring potential – or as we continually remind ourselves, a sum-of-the-parts valuation is most relevant when a company is actually implementing real corporate action.

One of our best contributors for the third quarter, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, fell squarely into that sum-of-the-parts/summing the parts bucket. We started our position in HPE in early 2016 when the stock was valued at less than 10 times earnings despite net cash on the balance sheet. At the time,



Wall Street consensus was concerned that HPE's core enterprise hardware segment was facing immediate headwinds. By contrast, our work indicated HPE's large installed customer base implied a longer time horizon for stable free cash flow. Against that backdrop, HPE's proactive management and board has had ample time to execute a portfolio overhaul including spinoffs of both its consulting and its software subsidiaries, which combined were more than half of its enterprise value. As a result, our investment is up more than 50%, well ahead of the market. Even after these value unlocking moves, HPE is still attractively valued under 10 times forward earnings, ex-cash, and it remains a holding.

Global integrated oil company Total was also a strong third quarter performer, as it continued to outdistance the overall energy sector. We invested in Total in the first quarter of 2016 when the stock was priced at book value and after oil prices had declined 65% from their 2013 peak. Total's disciplined management is focused on improving returns on capital without help from oil prices. Aided by its competitively advantaged and diversified portfolio, the company has returned to positive earnings and free cash flow well ahead of peers.

Meanwhile, Delta Airlines was a laggard for the period, returning a portion of its prior gain. A new position in May 2017, Delta was trading for 9 times earnings with a roughly 8% free cash flow yield at the time. We identified the company as likely to show improving revenue and cash flow. Delta's superior route structure includes the most attractive hubs in the US market. Coupled with a recently upgraded fleet of planes and newly renovated terminals, Delta is delivering a more consistent product. Ultimately this execution, along with a consolidated industry, should translate into more stable earnings than in the past.

Our contrarian investment process continues to identify company-specific opportunities, despite growing skepticism around market valuation. To that end, Sound Shore's portfolio was valued at 14.9 times forward earnings, a meaningful discount to the S&P 500 Index at 17.7 times. Alongside this valuation discount, we focus on resilient business models generating sustainable earnings. These are the keys to seeking meaningful long-term returns for our shareholders.

Thank you for your investment alongside ours in Sound Shore.

Sincerely,

SOUND SHORE FUND

Harry Burn, III John P. DeGulis T. Gibbs Kane, Jr.

Co-Portfolio Managers



## **Important Information**

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index is an unmanaged index representing the average performance of 500 widely held, publicly traded, large capitalization stocks. The Russell 1000 Value Index measures the performance of the large-cap value segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000 companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower expected growth values. It is not possible to invest directly in an Index.

This letter may contain discussions about certain investments both held and not held in the portfolio. As required by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), we must remind you that current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk. Percent of net assets as of 9/30/17: Delta Air Lines, Inc.: 2.15%; Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co.: 2.14%; and Total S.A. ADR: 3.36%.

An investment in the Fund is subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal amount invested. Mid Cap Risk: Securities of medium sized companies may be more volatile and more difficult to liquidate during market downturns than securities of large, more widely traded companies. Foreign Securities Risk: The Fund may invest in foreign securities primarily in the form of American Depositary Receipts. Investing in the securities of foreign issuers also involves certain special risks, which are not typically associated with investing in U.S. dollar-denominated securities or quoted securities of U.S including increased risks of adverse issuer, political, regulatory, market or economic developments, changes in currency rates and in exchange control regulations. The Fund is also subject to other risks, including, but not limited to, risks associated with value investing.

The views in this letter were those of the Fund managers as of 9/30/17 and may not necessarily reflect their views on the date this letter is first published or anytime thereafter.

You should consider the Fund's investment objective, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. The summary prospectus and/or the prospectus contain this and other information about the Fund and are available from your financial intermediary or www.soundshorefund.com. The summary prospectus and/or prospectus should be read carefully before investing.

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